

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02

OES-06 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SAL-01 OIC-02 /143 W

----- 073575

R 180037Z SEP 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9266

UNCLAS USUN 3811

FROM LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS GENERAL COMMITTEE 16 SEPTEMBER

SUMMARY: GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 16 SEPTEMBER REACHED CONSENSUS ON VENUE, LENGTH, AND TIMING OF NEXT SESSION AND SPECIAL PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED. NEXT SESSION WILL BE IN NEW YORK FOR 7 OR 8 WEEKS STARTING MID-MAY 1977. FIRST 2 OR 3 WEEKS OF SESSION WILL CONCENTRATE ON COMMITTEE I AT HEAD OF DELEGATION LEVEL. NEXT 2 OR 3 WEEKS WILL CONCENTRATE ON COMMITTEES II AND III AND PLENARY CONSIDERATION OF PREAMBLE, FINAL CLAUSES, AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT. OBJECTIVE IS PRODUCTION BY 6TH WEEK BY PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN OF SINGLE, CONSOLIDATED NEGOTIATING TEXT AND THEN A DRAFT CONVENTION BY END OF SESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. CONFERENCE PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE CHAIRED FORMAL

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GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 16 SEPTEMBER AND AFTER LENGTHY

DEBATE RULED COMMITTEE HAD REACHED CONSENSUS ON LENGTH, TIMING AND VENUE OF NEXT SESSION AND PROCEDURES TO BE FOLLOWED. THIS REPORT WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR PLENARY APPROVAL 17 SEPTEMBER.

2. GROUP OF 77 REPORTED PREFERENCE FOR NEW YORK AS VENUE TO PERMIT WIDEST POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION AT CONFERENCE (COST, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PRESENCE OF UN MISSIONS CITED AS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO SMALL STATES). THIS DECISION OUTWEIGHED WEO AND EE PREFERENCE FOR GENEVA AND PRESIDENT RULED CONSENSUS ON NEW YORK AS VENUE.

3. GROUP OF 77 SOUTH 6 OR 7 WEEK SESSION WITHIN PERIOD MID-MAY TO END OF AUGUST 1977. U.S., WEO AND EE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SUFFICIENT TIME BETWEEN SESSIONS WAS NEEDED FOR PREPARATORY WORK AND MID-MAY START WAS ACCEPTABLE; HOWEVER, PREFERENCE WAS FOR LONGER SESSION. US (AMBASSADOR LEARSON) SAID US WOULD ACCEPT MAJORITY VIEW ON VENUE AND TIMING BUT WE BELIEVE 3 WEEKS SHOULD BE USED TO CONCENTRATE ON COMMITTEE I AND 5-7 WEEKS ON REMAINING ISSUES. AMERASINGHE PROPOSED, AND GOT ACCEPTANCE FOR, 7 WEEK SESSION WITH OPTION TO EXTEND TO 8. STARTING DATE WILL BE 16, 23 OR 30 MAY, 1977.

4. GROUP OF 77 ANNOUNCED THEY WOULD MEET FOR TWO WEEKS IN NEW YORK JUST PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION.

5. CHILE (ZEGERS) CITING NEED TO AVOID REPETITION OF SLOW PROGRESS OF THIS SESSION URGED DECIDING NOW ON PROCEDURES AND OBJECTIVES OF NEXT SESSION. THE SPECIFICS OF HIS PROPOSAL WERE WIDELY COMMENTED UPON BY DELEGATIONS AND THE MODIFIED VERSION, ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS, (BUT WITH SOME INFORMAL RESERVATIONS ABOUT NEGLECT OF COMMITTEE II), READS AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE. (1) THE CONFERENCE SHOULD HOLD ANOTHER SESSION IN 1977 FOR SEVEN WEEKS, WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING IT TO EIGHT WEEKS; (2) THE SESSION SHOULD START ON EITHER 16, 23 OR 30 MAY; (3) THE FIRST TWO OR THREE WEEKS OF THE SESSION SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO MATTERS BEING DEALT WITH BY THE FIRST
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COMMITTEE TO ENABLE THAT COMMITTEE TO REACH THE SAME STATE AS THE OTHER TWO COMMITTEES, BUT OTHER MEETINGS SHOULD NOT BE PRECLUDED PROVIDED THAT THERE WAS NO INTERFERENCE WITH THE FIRST COMMITTEE AND WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF HEADS OF DELEGATIONS IN THAT COMMITTEE'S WORK; (4) DURING THE FOLLOWING TWO WEEKS, OF THE SESSION, THE SECOND AND THIRD COMMITTEES SHOULD MEET ALONG WITH THE FIRST; (5) DISCUSSIONS

SHOULD BE HELD IN PLENARY MEETINGS ON THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AS WELL AS FORMAL DISCUSSION ON THE PREAMBLE AND FINAL CLAUSES OF THE CONVENTION; (6) IN THE SIXTH WEEK THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHAIRMEN OF THE MAIN COMMITTEES SHOULD PREPARE AN INFORMAL SINGLE COMPOSITE TEXT, ON THE BASIS OF WHICH THE CONFERENCE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO PREPARE A DRAFT CONVENTION, ON WHICH IT SHOULD ACT IF POSSIBLE BY CONSENSUS AND WITHOUT RESORT TO VOTING. AT REGARDS INTER-SESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS, THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN OR INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS SHOULD ORGANIZE SUCH CONSULTATIONS IF THEY WISHED TO DO SO. THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD INFORM ALL MEMBERS AND SHOULD TRANSMIT THE RESULTS OF ANY SUCH CONSULTATIONS TO ALL MEMBERS. UNQUOTE.

6. PLENARY APPROVED GENERAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS SEPTEMBER 17. CONFERENCE SESSION TO COMMENCE MAY 23. MALTA AND JAMAICA RENEWED INVITATIONS TO BE SITE FOR SEABED AUTHORITY. SYRIA SUPPORTED MALTA. USSR, IN LONG STATEMENT, REJECTED COMPETITION FOR ACCESS TO DEEPSEABED MINING SITES. SCRANTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN03811
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760353-0565
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760944/aaaablxs.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vandyklc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 FEB 2004 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by vandyklc>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS GENERAL COMMITTEE 16 SEPTEMBER SUMMARY: GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING 16 SEPTEMBER REACHED CONSENSUS ON VENUE, LENGTH, AND TIMING OF NEXT SES
TAGS: PLOS, LOS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006